US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Dialysis Clinical Trials

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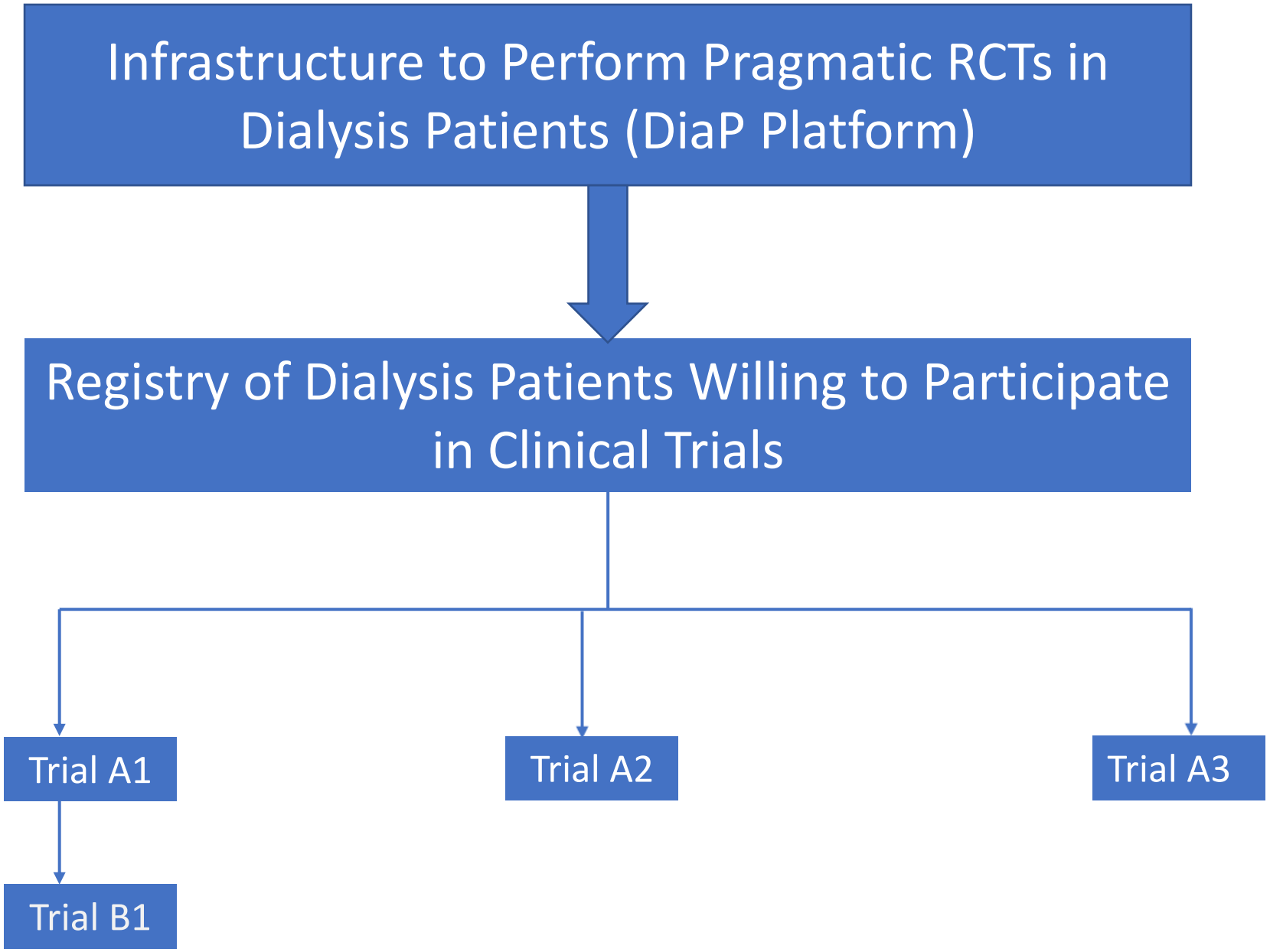
Infrastructure to Perform Pragmatic RCTs in Dialysis Patients (DiaP Platform)
Registry of Dialysis Patients Willing to Participate in Clinical Trials
Trial A1
Trial A2
Trial A3
Trial B1

Metoprolol Succinate vs Carvedilol for Prevention of Adverse Cardiovascular Outcomes in Hemodialysis Patients (BRAVO)

- Participants
  - Veterans on hemodialysis receiving a beta-blocker prescribed by a VA provider for hypertension or a cardiovascular diagnosis
- Intervention
  - Randomized to either metoprolol succinate or carvedilol
- Outcomes
  - Composite of all-cause mortality, non-fatal myocardial infarction, non-fatal stroke, and hospitalization for heart failure ascertained from HER
  - Safety endpoints include hospitalization or ED visit for falls, hypotension, fractures and atrial fibrillation with uncontrolled rates

Advantages of the VA for Pragmatic Clinical Trials

- Common electronic medical record
- Local VA pharmacies with a common formulary
- Central institutional review board (CIRB)
- Support from Cooperative Studies Program (CSP)
- In-center hemodialysis
- Patients willing to participate in clinical trials

Barriers to Overcome

- Recruitment, recruitment, recruitment
- Shift of dialysis population to the private sector
- Reluctance of providers and patients to change